



The Art of Fielding: A Novel

By Chad Harbach

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The Art of Fielding: A Novel By Chad Harbach

At Westish College, baseball star Henry Skrimshander seems destined for big league until a routine throw goes disastrously off course. In the aftermath of his error, the fates of five people are upended. Henry's fight against self-doubt threatens to ruin his future. College president Guert Affenlight has fallen unexpectedly and helplessly in love. Owen Dunne becomes caught up in a dangerous affair. Mike Schwartz realizes he has guided Henry's career at the expense of his own. And Pella Affenlight returns to Westish after escaping an ill-fated marriage, determined to start a new life.

As the season counts down to its climactic final game, these five are forced to confront their deepest hopes, anxieties, and secrets. Written with boundless intelligence and filled with the tenderness of youth, "*The Art of Fielding* is mere baseball fiction the way *Moby Dick* is just a fish story" (Nicholas Dawidoff). It is an expansive, warmhearted novel about ambition and its limits, about family and friendship and love, and about commitment--to oneself and to others.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Amazon Best Books of the Month, September 2011: Though *The Art of Fielding* is his fiction debut, Chad Harbach writes with the self-assurance of a seasoned novelist. He exercises a masterful precision over the language and pacing of his narrative, and in some 500 pages, there's rarely a word that feels out of place. The title is a reference to baseball, but Harbach's concern with sports is more than just a cheap metaphor. *The Art of Fielding* explores relationships--between friends, family, and lovers--and the unpredictable forces that complicate them. There's an unintended affair, a post-graduate plan derailed by rejection letters, a marriage dissolved by honesty, and at the center of the book, the single baseball error that sets all of these events into motion. *The Art of Fielding* is somehow both confident and intimate, simple yet deeply moving. Harbach has penned one of the year's finest works of fiction.--*Kevin Nguyen*

Review

"Chad Harbach has hit a game-ender with *The Art of Fielding*. It's pure fun, easy to read, as if the *other* Fielding had a hand in it--as if *Tom Jones* were about baseball and college life."? **John Irving**

"An intricate, poised, tingling debut. Harbach's muscular prose breathes new life into the American pastime, recasts the personal worlds that orbit around it, and leaves you longing, lingering, and a baseball convert long after the last page."? **Téa Obrecht, author of *The Tiger's Wife***

"The Novel of the ~~Month~~ ~~Season~~ Year.... Riveting...[*The Art of Fielding*] emerges fully formed, a world unto itself. Harbach writes with a tender, egoless virtuosity...There's just something so easy and riveting about the way this book's layers unfold; not since *Lonesome Dove* have I been so sorry to let a group of characters go."? **Andres Corsello, GQ**

"One of those rare novels - like Michael Chabon's *Mysteries of Pittsburgh* or John Irving's *The World According to Garp* - that seems to appear out of nowhere, and then dazzles and bewitches and inspires, until you nearly lose your breath from the enjoyment and satisfaction, as well as the unexpected news-blast that the novel is very much alive and well."? **James Patterson**

"Spectacular! *The Art of Fielding* is a wise, warm-hearted, self-assured, and fiercely readable debut, which heralds the coming of a young American writer to watch....You won't want this book to end."? **Jonathan Evison**

"When the best shortstop alive sounds believably like a Tibetan lama, and when a thrown ball striking a shovel head at dawn leaves your own head ringing with certainty that truth and friendship have triumphed, you know you're in the hands of a writer you can trust."? **David James Duncan**

"Not being a huge fan of the national pastime, I found it easy to resist the urge to pick up this novel, but once I did I gave myself over completely and scarcely paused for meals. Like all successful works of literature *The Art of Fielding* is an autonomous universe, much like the one we inhabit although somehow more vivid."? **Jay McInerney, author of *Bright Lights, Big City* and *How It Ended***

"Beautifully made, surpassingly human, and quietly subversive, *The Art of Fielding* restores one's faith in the

national pastime--i.e., reading and writing novels."? *Benjamin Kunkel, author of Indecision*

About the Author

Chad Harbach grew up in Wisconsin and was educated at Harvard and the University of Virginia. He is a cofounder and coeditor of *n+1*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Armando Ceballos:

Do you have favorite book? When you have, what is your favorite's book? Reserve is very important thing for us to learn everything in the world. Each reserve has different aim as well as goal; it means that book has different type. Some people truly feel enjoy to spend their time and energy to read a book. They can be reading whatever they get because their hobby is reading a book. What about the person who don't like reading a book? Sometime, person feel need book if they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you will need this *The Art of Fielding: A Novel*.

Diana Castillo:

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